

OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Missionary Journal

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REV. McLEOD MILLIGAN PEARCE, D. D. } Editors

Address all Communications to

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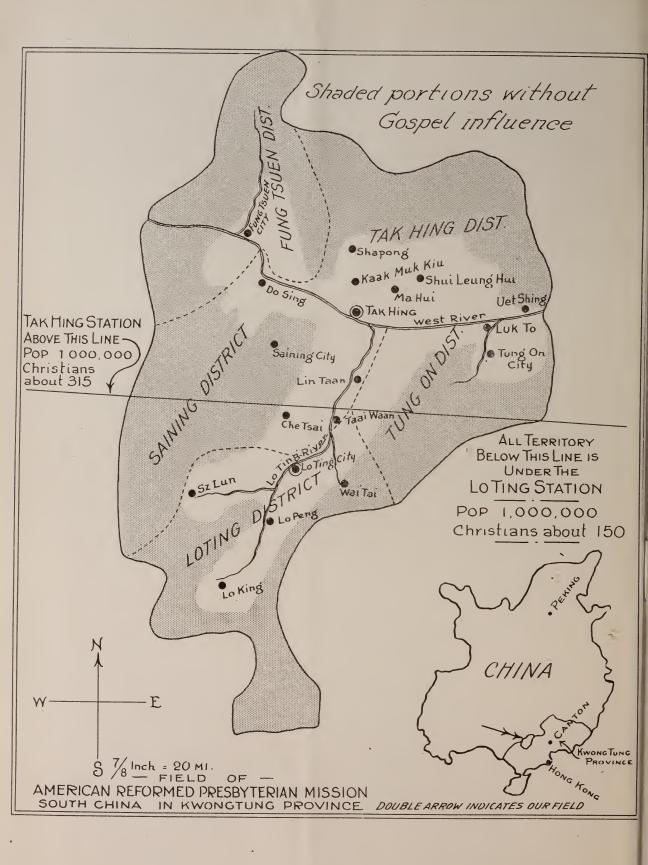
OLIVE TREES

ANNUAL REPORT NUMBER

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to the whole Creation."-JESUS CHRIST.

The Map frontispiece is the gift of the Board to our readers. It is made after a draft furnished by Dr. Dickson, and is intended to help you understand the Report of the Mission in China. Preserve it!

The Board is again undertaking to present this Annual Report Number to every family in the Church, not on the mailing list. This is done in the assurance that each family receiving it will carefully read the Reports. If, you will accept this gift of information, the Board trusts you to return to the Lord's missionary cause much more than the nominal sum paid for the extra copies and for postage. If any family fails to get a copy, please ask your pastor or correspondent to notify this office, and copies will be sent as long as the supply lasts.





R. M. SOMMERVILLE, D. D. MRS. R. M. SOMMERVILLE DR. SOMMERVILLE founded "OLIVE TREES and edited it for 29 years.

OLIVE TREES

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TO THE SYNOD

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, June, 1917

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

"The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and judgment are the foundation of his throne. His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw and trembled. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth." Amid falling thrones and uprising kingdoms, "The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory." Above the roar of battle and the tumult of the peoples there sounds throughout the wide world the voice of doom: "Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols." Equally clear is the exhortation to men of state: "Worship him, all ye gods." While now there is "great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor"-please God—"ever shall be," nevertheless when the birth pangs of God's new day are forgotten, the voice of sacred song—sweeter and clearer—shall still proclaim: "Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O Lord. For thou, Lord, art high above all the earth; thou art exalted above all gods." The day of his power may be yet in the dim distant future, but doubtless the voices now crying in the wilderness shall yet be heard in heaven saying, "the Kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ."

SYRIA AND ASIA MINOR.

We must come to the Synod again with nothing but the most general report of the work in Syria and Asia Minor. Our missionaries are still in the field as they were a year ago, although we have asked the Department of State at Washington to bring them out to some Mediterranean port. This we have done as a precautionary measure and not that we have had any direct intimation that they were in any immediate danger. Having again recently urged the government to act on this suggestion we may be apprised at any time that the missionaries have left their posts until the issues of the war become known.

In this connection we must record the death of one of our faithful missionaries to Syria. After a brief illness, Mrs. J. M. Balph was called April 2, 1917, to her eternal reward. Waiting patiently in America until the Master would permit her to return to Syria, she was working among the Syrian immigrants of Pittsburg. The Lord came for her and she has entered the higher service, and the joy unspeakable, and full of glory.

While we have received no formal reports from these fields, we have throughout the year received and reported to the church through the prints assurances of the safety of the workers and no serious interference with their service. While regular work has been in part set aside, the necessities of the situation arising out of the war have brought new obligations of the most taxing kind. Some of the schools have been in operation without any interference whatever. As might be expected, many of the native workers were taken away. Miss Edgar, Miss Sterrett and Mr. Carithers have carried forward their work regularly. Dr. Peoples has had more than he could possibly do, and the ministers have had every opportunity to preach without hindrance. In short, our American workers have been afforded enough opportunities in the line of their regular duties to keep them more than busy, and to these was added the almost unlimited work of relief.

To meet the needs of the suffering people in Syria and Asia Minor the church has contributed liberally throughout the year and it has been

possible to transmit these funds to the field. Field expenses continue high, owing to the universal advance in prices, and we may find it necessary, for the same reason, to advance salaries of all the missionaries until the return of normal conditions.

While the mails have been seriously interfered with and rigidly censored, we know the strain under which the missionaries have labored has been endurable only by the grace of God. May the Lord Jesus keep them and sustain them until the end.

CYPRUS.

The Rev. Walter McCarroll continued in the ministerial and educational work. He was all year without the comfort and help of his family, as Mrs. McCarroll is still in this land with two of the children, while the other two are in Switzerland. Although his furlough is due this year, it is as yet uncertain whether he will assume the risk of travel to come home. He may choose to remain another year in Cyprus.

Preaching has been conducted in Larnaca, Nicosia and Kyrenia, and in the Greek, Turkish, Arabic and English languages. That in Arabic was for the refugees and was attended regularly by 50 or more persons. The English service was conducted to accommodate the soldiers, a detachment of the Royal Scots who were sent to the Island. Among them were some Scotch Presbyterians who were glad of an opportunity to attend a church of their own kind. Fifty or more attended each English service. "In addition we opened a kind of Y. M. C. A. hut," says Mr. McCarroll. "for the benefit of the soldiers." A building on the mission premises was fitted up at small expense. In this were reading, writing and rest rooms. Tea and cakes were sold at nominal prices. "It has been a boon greatly appreciated by a goodly number. praise service each Sabbath evening in the hut itself has been of help to some."

The Lord's Supper was observed twice in Nicosia and once in Larnaca. Twenty-one were added to the roll, which with a decrease of one, leaves the net gain in Cyprus 20. The membership is now 58. *Licentiate Dimitriades* still gives his entire time to the preaching and evangelistic work.

Three schools were again conducted this year—the boys' academy, the girls' school and the primary Armenian school. The total enrollment for the year was 217. In the academy there was a total enrollment of 165, of whom 139 were in actual attendance when the report was made, "an increase of nearly 133 per cent. in seven years." About one-third of this increase is from the refugees, so that with the return of normal times there may be a considerable decrease. "Yet in spite of this the figures indicate steady progress. In point of numbers we have as many as we can comfortably handle with our present accommodations." Mr. Charles A. Stewart and Mr. W. Wilbur Weir were the teachers assisting Mr. McCarroll. At the close of his three-year term. Mr. Dwight H. Connor returned to America to complete his education, and Mr. Weir, a graduate of Geneva, and a member of the Winchester congregation, was secured to go out for a term of three years. He reached Cyprus soon after the school opened in September, and has proved a worthy successor to Mr. Connor.

"From a spiritual viewpoint the work among the boys has been more satisfactory than at any previous time. Messrs. Stewart and Weir hold a Sabbath evening meeting, which has deepened the interest of the boys in spiritual things. The chapel exercises and daily Bible classes have been continued as usual."

The girls' school, started in a humble way last year, was this year well organized and under its own teachers, and is now running on its own schedule with regular classes. The enrollment was 38, with 34 in regular attendance. The school for

small Armenian children still serves a real need. There was an attendance of 14.

Summing up, Mr. McCarroll says: "On the whole it was the most satisfactory year that we have yet had, and in spite of manifold discouragements we can see progress being made; and we also in due time shall reap, if we faint not."

Dr. Calvin McCarroll reports a good year in the medical work. Centering in Nicosia its influence reaches out into a wide area. The health of the missionaries has been good, and it is ever a comfort to them and the church at home to have a thoroughly qualified physician on the field. Dr. McCarroll is by no means wholly engrossed with the practice of his profession. He speaks of the profitable and enjoyable communion seasons at Nicosia; and remarks that "nearly all the young people of the church are busy learning Psalms and passages of Scripture. This was brought about by my brother offering a Bible as a prize to each one who would learn certain specified passages."

Clinics were held regularly twice a week, "preceded by the preaching of the Word and distribution of tracts. On these occasions the behavior and attention of the people has been quite satisfactory." The number of office treatments this year was 7800; the out-visits, 636; visits to villages, 26, involving 820 miles of travel, and the total number of treatments, 8462. Thus, "a large number of people have come into contact with the gospel and at least have heard the 'joyful sound.'"

Says Dr. McCarroll, "We have been a little more encouraged with the results of the year's work but we are still far from being satisfied. We are too prone to forget that results cannot always be observed with the human eye, and that we must do the sowing although we may not reap."

CHINA.

When we come to the China field we can again report most encouraging progress. And missionaries say the fields are white unto the harvest as never before.

Early last Autumn God graciously carried back to their labors Dr. Katherine W. McBurney, Rev. E. C. Mitchell and wife, Rev. W. M. Robb and family, and Miss Jennie M. Dean. They were accompanied by Miss Nellie A. Brownlee, who went out for the first time. Rev. J. K. Robb, leaving his wife and family in America, followed a little later. After a year of unusually heavy work the senior missionary, Dr. A. I. Robb, was overtaken with pneumonia, which was followed by a prostrating attack of the dread malaria. This compelled his return to America for treatment in a more congenial climate. His heart is still in China, and he hopes by the blessing of God to return again in due time to the work which claims the devotion of his life.

Within the year there have been 110 adult and 7 infant baptisms. In Ma Hui, where no members were reported last year, there are now 37. In the China field, after allowing for a decrease of 48 for all causes, there is still a net gain of 64 members. The total enrollment of our church in China is now 464 members. The mission has conducted 8 Sabbath Schools, 11 Primary schools, 4 of the Grammar grade, 1 Woman's school, 1 Theological class, and 1 Hospital Training class. In all these schools there is a total enrollment of 413. In the Theological class 12 young men are preparing to preach the gospel to their own countrymen. Five medical students finished their course, and received certificates. The doctors gave 8520 hospital treatments, 4689 dispensary treatments. In the year's itinerating among the 2,000,000, people in the field 493 villages were visited, 1350 patients were treated by the physicians and 21,700 persons

heard the message of salvation. In all these districts the word of God is sold and thus the seed is sown, and left to germinate, grow and bring forth fruit.

To facilitate the administrative work in the field in China, it was decided to organize separate station organizations at Lo Ting and Tak Hing, each of these two stations having the power to manage the details of their respective districts in accordance with the general policy of the mission. By action of the mission and the Board the acts of each station shall be subject to the approval of the mission, the minutes of each station being read at the annual meeting of the mission.

Our report this year will outline the work of the two districts under the names of the several missionaries.

TAK HING DISTRICT.

Dr. A. I. Robb, besides conducting the Theological Training Class, had charge of the Tak Hing congregation, the chapel in Tak Hing, and the chapels and schools in Lin Taan and Tung On. He was also moderator of the Lo Ting session from the departure of Mr. Taggart until the return of Mr. Mitchell, a period of about six months.

"During the school year there was preaching in the city chapel on Tuesday nights and Sabbath afternoons, conducted by the students. Usually two spoke at each service, and their improvement in speaking has been in most cases quite marked. The audiences have ranged from 6 to 100, with a probable average of 35 to 40.

"About half the students have also preached to the church congregation on Sabbath, at least once during the year and in general, with acceptance to all. They have thus preached considerably over 100 sermons during the school year.

"During the summer vacation they were sent in two parties under the direction of a licentiate who accompanied them. One party was very seriously hindered by the disturbed state of the Tung On district, to which they went; the other party, which worked in the eastern part of the Tak Hing district, reported excellent opportunities and friendly people." The number of meetings held during July, August and September was 322, with an average attendance of 43, or a total attendance of 13,846! Of these, 429 are recorded as "pleased" with the gospel.

Owing to illness overtaking Dr. Robb it became necessary to close the Training School temporarily. But it is expected that in addition to their other work the Revs. J. K. and W. M. Robb will be able to reopen it in the fall.

At Tak Hing the year has been one of progress. Three communions were held and the total increase in membership was 45. Although many live at a distance, the attendance has increased. In studying the statistical report it should be noticed that a number of names have not been counted of persons who are not attending church, but are by no means regarded as backsliders by the native brethren. Part of the preaching was done by the licentiates and students and part by Dr. Robb. In his opinion the congregation should call and support its own native preacher, but they have not yet reached that point "The fall communion," says of view. Dr. Robb, "was notable as being quite the largest in the history of the congregation, and all the preaching during eight days was done by native preachers. The congregational finances were placed entirely in the hands of the native converts at the fall communion, and they are moving perceptibly, if somewhat slowly, in the direction of financial independence."

The work at Tung On and Lin Tan was directed by Dr. Robb. A native licentiate was in charge at each station. There was much to encourage, although the success at Lin Tan was not as great as was hoped. Prospects for next year are brighter. The communion was not dispensed here, but at

Tung On two were held. Tung On is the place where, two years ago, the native evangelist was charged with treason and executed. This unfortunate occurrence scattered the Christions, brought stigma on all who attended the chapel and brought the work to a temporary close. On the death of Yuan Shik Kai and the reestablishment of the Republic this stigma was removed from the name of the dead evangelist and he was put on the roll of honor. People no longer stay away from the chapel. He who was executed as a traitor is now enrolled as a hero. "There has been excellent attendance at the chapel on market days throughout the year. Many are interested and come to discuss the doctrine! While there were no accessions during the year, there are 23 Christians here, and the outlook seems decidedly better than a year ago, and the abundant sowing will bring its harvest in due time."

In the school at Tung On 30 pupils were enrolled for a school year of 271 days, with an average attendance of 22. There are two native teachers. Seven of the pupils say they believe in Christ, although they are held back from confession by youth or opposition of parents.

In Lin Tan there are but 10 pupils. The natives are studying ways and means to secure a better showing in another year. Here, as in all schools, there are the daily exercises of worship and one hour of Bible study.

The month of September was spent by Dr. Robb in the Lo Ting district, where he conducted communions at Che Tsai, Lo King and Lo Ting. In addition to all his educational and administrative work, he conducted seven communions and preached 55 times in church chapels during the year.

The Rev. Julius A. Kempf's work is primarily educational, but he also had no little share in the evangelistic. And he has also served another year as the mission treasurer. He had charge of the evangelistic and school work at Do Sing, and the district north of Tak Hing, where in six separate stations there are four chapels and four day schools. In this work he had the assistance of, and responsibility for, two native teachers. Other native workers controlled by other members of the mission cooperated part of the time.

The Boys' School at Tak Hing enrolled 71 pupils the past year, with an average attendance of 58. There were 220 days of school. Every morning and evening there are exercises of worship, and one hour each day is given to Bible study. Four native teachers give their full time and four others part time. Of these eight teachers seven are professing Christians. The number of conversions in the year was four, and the whole number of Christians among the pupils 12. This school has now completed its tenth year. The Church will be interested in Mr. Kempf's answer to the question: "What has it done in 10 years?" Compressing his observations, there is, first, "a decided improvement in the class of pupils who wish to enter our school. In the early years pupils were drawn from the poorest homes, and were very deficient physically, mentally and morally. Now most come from the middle class and some from the 'best families' in Tak Hing. These boys are diligent in their studies, have more respect for personal appearance and are more easily managed."

Second, important advance has been made in the course of studies and the grade of work done. From the simplest rudiments in the early years they have advanced on all lines until they are now teaching all subjects required by the Government in the seven years' graded course, with the constant instruction in Bible lessons added.

Third, "there has been a vast improvement in ability and efficiency of teachers." Ten years ago the best teachers obtainable followed the old method of teaching by rote. There was no enthusiasm. The teachers

would sleep at their desks with their heads buried in their arms, or would go out on the street to smoke while the pupils held high carnival within. Now there are four full-time teachers in this school, and "they are as good as any, if not the best, that can be found locally." They are displaying the activity and method of good American teachers, and are learning to teach for the sake of teaching and not merely for the sake of a salary. Such progress has commanded the "esteem and recognition of the upper and official classes. It is regarded as the best school in the district," and for this reason requests are being made that a middle school be opened or that this school furnish instruction in still higher grades. Progress is to be noted also in the direction of self-support. "If the average attendance and salaries of teachers had remained the same all these 10 years, the school would have been self-supporting long ago."

As for specific results, Mr. Kempf has summed them up: "Two hundred and fifteen boys have been brought under Christian influence and instruction for a period of from four months to seven years; the gospel carried into homes not otherwise reached," so that many parents had their first interest in Christianity aroused by their boys who were attending the school. "The school has had no small part in winning for Christianity a respect and interest of the upper classes." It "has made it possible for Christian parents to have their children educated under Christian influence." And although these results alone would "justify the existence of the school and the expenditure of all the means and time and energy which have been given to it," we have yet to reckon results whose potential value the next 10 years will reveal. "We refer," says Mr. Kempf, "to the 30 or more boys who have made open confession of Christ by uniting with the church; and the 11 boys who have graduated in the last three years;

the six graduates who are preparing for, or are already engaged in, the church's work; and the two who wish to enter the training school next year."

Such results show that the school is fulfilling the three principal purposes for which it was established, namely, "to bring boys to Christ, to help prepare the youth of China for Christian citizenship, and to help in raising up a ministry for the native church."

Mrs. Kempf taught English one hour each day, and Mrs. Wright gave instruction in music in the Boys' School.

Although Mr. Kempf's furlough falls due this spring, he generously offers to remain on the field another year, owing to peculiar circumstances at present in that station, and Dr. Robb's enforced absence.

The work at Do Sing progressed much the same as last year. An evangelistic service and a Sabbath school are held each Sabbath, and one hour daily is spent in Bible study at the Boys' School. A native preacher conducts a mid-week prayer-meeting and is expected to preach the gospel anywhere and any time an opportunity is afforded.

From 5 to 30 attend the evangelistic service, and from 4 to 9 the prayer-meeting. Two communions were held; six men were received and baptized.

The church roll has been revised, and names of 15 lepers, who were either massacred or driven beyond the bounds of our district last May, were taken off the roll. There are now 34 Christians at Do Sing.

At Fung Tsuen, 15 miles west of Do Sing, there was preaching 10 Sabbaths during the year by the native preacher with the assistance of the training class students. The young man in charge of the school there, a Christian of two years, has tried to keep the altar fires burning by conducting a prayer-meeting and Sabbath school every Sabbath. Six young

men have been led to Christ through his influence. A communion was held there. There are seven Christians at Fung Tsuen.

The Do Sing and Fung Tsuen schools have 42 enrolled, with an average attendance of 27. Radical changes, throwing more responsibilities on the local Christians, will be made next year.

Mention must be made of the wonderful advance at Ma Hui, already fully reported in OLIVE TREES. When our last year's report was prepared not a single Christian was at this place. Forty-nine have come into the fold from this district during the year. Evangelistic services were held regularly on Sabbaths and market days. The native preacher, a graduate of the training class, did most of the chapel preaching. The district was visited frequently by Mr. Kempf and the native staff of the Tak Hing Hospital. Two communion services were held. Thirty-eight adults and four children were baptized, and 11 more were baptized at Tak Hing. A third communion was planned, but after baptism services the people in their eagerness crowded so closely around Mr. Kempf there was no room for the communion service.

The Girls' School and the Woman's School at Tak Hing engaged the efforts of Miss Mary Adams. On October 17 the opening of the educational work among women and girls was celebrated. It began 11 years ago with two pupils in the girls' school. Eight years since, the woman's work was started. This year's enrollment in the two schools was 74. There is an increasing appreciation of the value of education for girls, and a willingness to pay something for the pupil's board. Next year each will pay a little tuition.

Five girls finish the eighth grade and have taken a little high school work this year.

Four native teachers and five pupil teachers have helped carry on the regular work. Dr. Robb taught advanced Bible pupils. Mrs. Robb taught drawing to the primary class, and Mrs. Kempf and Mrs. Doig have had charge of the sewing, crocheting and tatting classes. Mrs. Wright directed music in both schools and also conducted the Wednesday Bible class. She has had charge of the teachers' training class since Miss Huston left.

Students from the woman's school go every Sabbath afternoon to surrounding homes and tell the message of life. Eight girls have publicly acknowledged Christ this year, and others desire to be received into church membership.

The Rev. J. K. Robb returned to Tak Hing a few weeks prior to the annual meeting of the mission, and there need be no record here other than that he entered at once upon the work with enthusiasm. The Rev. W. M. Robb, rejoicing greatly to be again in China after providential absence, took up the study of the language. On the judgment of the mission he soon went to the Union Language School in Canton, where he made such rapid progress in regaining the language that he expects to be able in the autumn to take up a large degree of regular work.

The Medical Work in Tak Hing was under the efficient care of Dr. J. M. Wright, Dr. Kathryn W. McBurney assisting after her return from furlough. Dr. McBurney reports most gratifying progress in this department—a progress manifest to one returning after more than a year's absence. She notes particularly the growth of the native helpers under the added responsibilities laid on them during her own furlough. Her observations will be found in an interesting report to be published in OLIVE TREES. Dr. Wright reports for the Gregg Memorial Hospital, the medical training class and the itinerating through outlying parts of the district. Daily worship was held in the men's and woman's waiting room, and prayer meeting Wednesday afternoon. Every Sabbath of the year the

hospital class and helper went out and either led or took part in a meeting. "All the patients and their friends accompanying them attended morning worship, and showed an unusual spirit of serious inquiry. Many of them asked the helpers to teach them how to conduct worship so that on returning home they might themselves worship the true God. All of the in-patients before leaving for home professed to be believers, and many invited us to go to their homes to visit them and to talk the doctrine." A notable event was the completion of the course of study and training on the part of the hospital class. Hospital certificates were given the students. "The Tak Hing official sent to register those who were to receive certificates from the hospital with the object of preventing those who have not certificates from practicing western medicine. This is a welcome step in the right direction." The two women in the class will continue to work in the hospital. One of the men will enter the theological class, another will teach in the women's school and do dispensary work in Do Sing on Saturdays. The third will go into private practice in a neighboring district.

The hospital class did a large amount of evangelistic work in the year. These students made 22 trips into the surrounding district, traveling about 700 miles. Five thousand people attended their meetings. They distributed gospels and tracts to the number of 8460 and treated 1050 patients, and preached 187 sermons. For details and figures as to patients, treatments, dispensary patients, outcalls of the doctors, etc., reference may be had to the statistical table.

Dr. Wright had charge of the colporteur work in the outlying district. A colporteur was employed for ten months, who worked to the west, north and east of Tak Hing. "The supply of gospels and Acts for the most parts were secured from the National Bible Society of Scotland, Hankow, who supply them free to missions." The number of portions, F salm books and Testaments is 2149; and tracts, 3000. These are additional to all those distributed and sold in the hospital.

For years Dr. Wright has felt the call to educational and research work, opportunities for which did not seem to offer in our mission. Repeatedly Dr. Wright has been requested to go to Kung Yee in Canton; later to Nanning; and this last year to the Canton Union Hospital. With Dr. Wright's expressed preferences before the mission and the Board and acting on the favorable recommendation of the mission, the Board appointed Dr. Wright to the Canton Union Hospital to represent our Church on the teaching force. This hospital and medical school aims to give a medical education to young Chinese under distinctly Christian influences. Dr. Wright retains his connection with our mission and the Board continues to pay his salary. The rules of the hospital entitle each co-operating mission to a representative on the Board of Directors. Dr. Dickson has been chosen to this position.

LO TING DISTRICT.

The Rev. E. C. Mitchell now has charge of the ministerial and part of the school work of this district. Mrs. Mitchell is a most efficient helper. He preaches in Lo Ting, Che Tsai, Lo King and such other out-stations as can be reached. From the time of the last year's report of the mission until he left China on a furlough, the Rev. Mr. Taggart was in charge of this work. During the summer and until Mr. Mitchell's return to China the natives carried the work under the direction of Dr. Dickson, except for the month of September, when Rev. Dr. Robb was in Lo Ting district as already reported. Mr. Mitchell reports that the ultimate results of the special evangelistic services in January of last year were disappointing. For while large numbers were interested and about 150 signified their desire to study the Bible and learn of the Christian doctrine, there was no one left after Mr. Taggart's departure to follow up the work, consequently most of these inquirers have gone back to their old ways of living. May the Lord of the harvest care for the seed sown. To the Lo Ting congregation 14 were added on profession. A licentiate is employed here for his full time. In the chapel 62 preaching services were held; out side the chapel 200 meetings. Fifty-two prayer meetings for women, 52 for men, and 11 more in connection with the communion were held. In addi-tion Mr. Lo, the evangelist, made 60 visits into homes and schools where he talked the doctrine, "to one who has been away for two years," says Mr. Mitchell, "it is evident that progress has been made. There is no need for discouragement." Three communions were conducted in Lo Ting, and there are 81 members here. a net gain of 10.

In Che Tsai there are 40 members, and three communions were conducted. To the extreme south, in Lo King, a licentiate is in charge. There are 30 members and two communions were conducted-one by Mr. Taggart and one by Dr. Robb. Last spring the Christians decided to enlarge the work and open a library. Money was collected to the amount of \$1000 local currency, largely from Chinese outside the church. Most of this money the donors wished to go for books. The opening of the library necessitated the re-modeling of the chapel. For this more money was contributed by the Christians of Lo Ting and Lo King and the mission made a loan of \$300 (local) to complete the adaptation in the building. Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Dickson together made a trip to Lo King to inspect the building, and found it a structure well worth all that was expended on it.

Mr. Mitchell reports on two schools under his care, the boys' school at Lo Ting, where one Chinese teacher is in charge, and a boys' school at Lo King, where one teacher will do the work next year, although two were employed last year. In Lo Ting the attendance was 31 and in Lo King 30. There is still a crying need for a young man to go out and take charge of the boys' school at Lo Ting and we are praying the Lord Jesus to call one of his own choice to this work.

Miss Ella Margaret Stewart again had the conducting of the girls' school in Lo Ting. Miss Jennie M. Dean reached the field about six weeks before the making of the annual reports. That time she spent in preparation for the next year's work. Miss Dean expresses gratitude to the heavenly Father for restored health and the privilege of returning to China. She began personal work among the girls at once, and sends a request for prayer on behalf of some four or five girls of marked influence who are as yet unwilling to pay the price of wholesouled surrender. And further: "We crave your prayers for ourselves that Christ may be able to pour Himself through us in satisfying fullness to all with whom we come in contact for His name's glory." Miss Stewart feels already the added power of Miss Dean's personality in the work among the girls and women. During the first semester, beginning February 12 and closing June 29, 64 pupils were enrolled—57 from non-Christian homes. Quoting from Miss Stewart's report: "Each girl had at least one hour of Bible work per day. In the first grade we have ten hours each week, as children from the heathen homes are absolutely without any knowledge of Christ and Christian customs. Personal contact with them gives us a very definite conception of what we might have been, had we been denied godly parentage." As a consequence of insisting on the religious instruction and attendance upon worship, some of the girls did not return to the second semester in the fall, yet more than twenty of the girls were regular attendants at the Sabbath services during the summer vaca-

tion while the missionaries were away and "the 48 girls enrolled this semester have, with few exceptions, been unusually open and responsive, both in their Bible classes and public worship." Expressing her happiness at the return of Miss Dean and Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Stewart adds: "Mrs. Mitchell has taken up the women's work again with interest and enthusiasm." Two women's meetings are conducted each week. Mrs. Dickson has been a faithful and efficient worker in the school. Both she and Mrs. Mitchell have spent time visiting in the homes of the Christian and non-Christian women. We trust you will join us in prayer that 1917 may be a jubilee year in Lo Ting field."

The Medical Work in Lo Ting under Dr. E. J. M. Dickson has made marked advance in the year. He has made an effort to visit all the principal centres in the field, with a view to acquainting himself with its needs and possibilities as a whole. He has submitted a comprehensive and interesting survey of the district, similar to that of the Tak Hing district submitted to Synod a few years ago, and he has—wisely as we believe—proceeded on the basis that the making of the gospel self-sustaining should be proposed to the Chinese converts from the start, and has definitely urged on them this policy. This laudible end, to be sure, has been in the minds and policy of all the missionaries from the beginning of the work. We are simply noting that Dr. Dickson's determination to put the idea to the fore from the very start may have a wholesome psychological effect on the Chinese. Perhaps the Oriental needs to be guarded against the temptation to rely upon the wealthier people of the Occident to finance the new religion among them. Under the wise leadership of Dr. Dickson, aided by Dr. Wright, the Lo Ting congregation took a long step in the desired direction. They "elected a board of eight trustees to establish and finance a hospital. They have purchased land and we hoped by this

time to have our hospital building nearly finished but on account of poor crops early in the year money has been unusually tight and the work has been delayed. The plans have been drawn for a building with a capacity of about 35 beds, and we hope it will be under way by the 1st of February. Although this kind of work is new to these men and they have needed a great deal of urging and encouragement to keep things moving, they have been of inestimable help to me and I feel certain that the work couldn't have made even the progress that has been made without their co-operation."

As for the general activities, "With the exception of the summer months of July and August, clinics were held regularly during the year, and the number of patients more than doubled that of the previous year." Our missionaries see the bubonic plague, intestinal parasites in children, and malaria in both old and young carry hundreds of the people to their graves every year. Dr. Dickson tells of his plans which, it is hoped, will ultimately save the people from these ravages: "Our only hope of getting ahead of these conditions is in teaching the people how to clean up and keep clean. On a small scale we have attempted to do something along this line during the past year. Our methods of publicity have been in offering prizes to the High School boys for the best essays on 'How to Keep Well,' posting the city with bills warning the people of conditions that cause disease, circulating printed matter throughout the whole district on the subject of health, and securing the co-operation of the district magistrates to the extent of his issuing proclamations urging the people to take all precautions against the spread of disease. In all these attempts the teachings of Jesus Christ have been given equal publicity and our experience has deepened the conviction that it is only through these teachings that we can ever hope to clean up China."

Gospel meetings were held regu-

larly in the Pig Market, where a class is reached that seldom get to the chapel. After repeated attempts to secure permission to hold meetings in the jails in the city had failed, the permission was last fall given to conduct them in the civil jail, but for holding them in the military jail permission was not granted until the very last Sabbath of the year. Here meetings are now held regularly every Sabbath and in this way over 250 prisoners are brought in touch with the gospel. "No other work of the year has yielded as much satisfaction as this of meeting with these unfortunate fellows, many of whom sooner or later will be executed; in fact, ten of these prisoners have paid the death penalty since our meetings begin. In the civil prisons where we have held meetings for about three months there are about a dozen earnest inquirers."

Book dispensaries stores. and schools, established in the centres and out-stations, and journeys into the country by parties of workers and native helpers are other practical means for reaching out into the district. During the year over 60 visits have been made to nearby villages, where meetings were held and at the close of each a clinic was conducted. The missionaries feel this is a "very effective way of getting the gospel into the homes of the people. In visiting different places we have collected data as to the leading men in the villages and we are now making an attempt to reach some of these men by correspondence. A personal letter counts fully as much in China as it does in America."

Last November Dr. Dickson used a special contribution of \$100 gold to establish a dispensary and reading. room in an out-station. "We picked," says he, "what we felt to be the neediest portion of the field, the city of Sz Lun, about a day's journey west of Lo Ting. A store has been rented on the busiest street in the city and simple remedies, gospels and gospel tracts are placed on sale. We also have a library with a good collection of Christian books. An earnest Christian young man is in charge of the work. Although the work here has been opened but one month, one man has made a public profession of Christ and there are several registered as inquirers who are studying the Bible. Meetings are held twice on Sabbath and every evening. We hope that the sale of medicines will make this station self-supporting."

SUMMARY.

To sum up for the entire China field: We have a population of 2,-000,000. There are 464 Church members, connected with eight churches and chapels, and as to their homes scattered throughout about one-fourth to one-third of the territory. We likely will have by next autumn 20 or 21 missionaries in the field, and there are 41 native workers, comprising 5 licentiates, 4 evangelists, 21 male teachers. 5 female teachers and 6 Bible women. There are 8 Sabbath schools, 18 educational schools with 513 pupils and students in all grades. There are two hospitals and five dispensaries, and two organized congregations. These are the human factors. May the Lord breathe on them and say "Receive ye the Holy Ghost," and may his power course through them. God give our Zion to see the resources at her command! "This is the word of the Lord.... Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." May the God of redeeming love and almighty power soon save China!

That the needs and growing opportunities of our mission fields might be

kept before the Church, the Rev. R. A. Blair is acting for a few months as a special messenger to the churches. the treasurer of the Board generously bearing all the expense connected with the project. Mr. Blair is urging upon the churches a forward movement in all their work. Ready response is being made in increased contributions to both the home and foreign work. He is everywhere urging the Every-Member Canvass, the Tithe, Free-will Offerings and the Budget system. From these every department of the church's work should benefit.

Miss Rose A. Huston expects to return to China in the early fall. Mr. R. C. Adams and Mr. Jesse C. Mitchel are under appointment to the same field, and after ordination by their Presbytery, expect to go out in time to enter the Union Language School in Canton. It is hoped that one or two others may be appointed in time to sail with these.

The missionaries at home from the Levant are ready to return to their stations at the earliest moment world conditions will permit. At that time a short term man will be needed to take the place of Mr. Carithers in the English school at Mersina. A young man is needed in the Academy in Cyprus. Two ministers, two physicians, two Bible women—in addition to the young man for the boys' school in Lo Ting—are needed for China.

OLIVE TREES has been published throughout the year. The financial statement is submitted by the treasurer.

The statistical tables for China and Cyprus are attached to this report.

To Mission Study Classes the coming year are recommended the follow-

ing books published by the Missionary
Education Movement, 156 Fifth ave-
nue, New York City, "The Lure of
Africa" and "On African Trail" for
adults; "The Moffats" for young
people, and "African Adventurers"
for juniors.

The Board requests of Synod an appropriation of \$25,000 for the Levant and \$30,000 for China.

The time for which Rev. R. M. Sommerville, D. D., Rev. Arthur A.

Samson, D. D., Rev. McLeod M. Pearce, D. D., Rev. John W. F. Carlisle, Rev. R. A. Blair and Mr. Henry O'Neill were appointed to the Board has expired. Their successors should be chosen by Synod.

The Corresponding Secretary and the Treasurer have been appointed to represent the Board on the floor of Synod.

Respectfully submitted for the Board, FINDLEY M. WILSON,

Corresponding Secretary.

RECEIPTS OF THE TREASURER

FOR THE YEAR MAY 1st, 1916-APRIL 30th, 1917

Levant Missions, General Fund, contributions from Con-

gregations, Sabbath Schools, Individuals and Bequests.	\$25,611.56
Levant Missions, Special and Relief Work	9,917.08
Levant Hospital	1,345.83
China Missions, General Fund, contributions from Congre-	
gations, Sabbath Schools, Individuals and Bequests	26,768.72
China Missions, Special Work	1,543.62
Entire cost of Board's administration, less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent.	

A portion of Dr. Kate McBurney's letter was crowded out of last month's issue. It is her personal tribute to Dr. Wright and family and we are glad to give it a place this time. Dr. McBurney says:

"It was with great rejoicing and keen regret that we saw Dr. and Mrs. Wright and Paul pack up and leave us for their new work in Canton. After thirteen years of acquaintance and close association in the work of school and hospital it would not seem a hasty judgment to pronounce them first-class fellowservants in every way. If it were the custom to say good things about people while they were alive I would like to make several remarks about how the Wrights worked while they were in Tak Hing, and how comfortable I have always found it to work with them. I'd like to tell how we all miss them—including the Chinese brethren. I'd like to tell how close the Chinese could get to them when they needed help. But it wouldn't do to taffy them up so much, for they might soon get like the Chinese man in Hong Kong said when a new missionary could not find a pith hat large enough for him. The Chinese standing by who had a smattering of English said: "I think he has the big head and no hat big enough for him." A friend has been defined by some one as "A bank of credit on which we can draw supplies of confidence, counsel, sympathy, help and love." We are glad to have such friends to pass on to the new work, and can do so with the comfort that our loss is for the good of the Master's cause. They are remembered daily at the Throne. No doubt the petitions will have the attention of the Hearer of prayer, whether they are presented in English or Chinese."

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Edited by MRS. FINDLEY M. WILSON, 2517 North Franklin Street, Philadelph ia, Penna.

"Every soldier dying for his country on a European battlefield, every home giving up its blood and tears, is a summons and a reproach to us men and women who have accepted the Christ of the Cross and not the Cross of Christ. If they have counted their cause above their lives and their every possession, why not we? What they freely yield to their lords of war and death, shall not Christians give with joy to their Lord of Love and Peace?" —Robert E. Speer.

Read the Report of the Board of Foreign Missions in this number of OLIVE TREES and be sure to see the map of the China Field. Our field is but a speck on the great face of China but wonderful things are being accomplished there. The shaded portions of the map show that there is yet much land to be possessed for Christ in Kwongtung Province. Let our prayers and our gifts follow our interest.

Nicosia, Cyprus. It is a pleasure to hear from Dr. Calvin McCarroll and Mrs. McCarroll of Nicosia, this month. Dr. McCarroll gives an interesting account of the work at Nicosia since its beginning, and Mrs. McCarroll sends her news in the forms of "locals." She says, "Many of our letters to the homeland have gone to the bottom of the sea, so no doubt, many of ours from home have done the same. We realize that you receive very little news from Nicosia, but there seems so little to write about especially since this great war, that we fear the home people would weary of hearing re-peated news items. If we had anything to offer we would gladly give it for that much appreciated paper. We certainly would miss the little OLIVE TREES if we failed to receive it regularly, as it keeps us in touch with the other mission fields.

Great excitement ruled here lately when our first enemy areoplane passed over Cyprus. No damage was done, however.

Our Licentiate, D. S. Dimitriades, and wife, are rejoicing over the arrival of a little son.

The high prices of food stuffs seem to continue. Many imported goods are now unavailable as the importation has been prohibited. Dr. McCarroll continues to be busy in his medical work but as in most cases the medicines have advanced—some 100 per cent. in price—he finds it difficult to meet expenses.

We are all in good health at present, and we are very thankful for this as I have been in such poor health since last summer."

Dr. McCarroll's letter follows:

"The cause of my writing these few lines is that our Corresponding Secretary tells me that he thinks you do not know much about the work in Nicosia as compared with Larnaca. If I can correct this defect by writing a few lines occasionally I shall be very pleased.

"Work was begun by Rev. Easson and Dr. Moore as an out-station, there being stationed here an Armenian pastor and family and a colporteur and family. When we came to Nicosia in 1905 to make our headquarters here, the Armenian pastor, Rev. Sarkissian, with his family, removed to Canada, where he and his wife have both since died. The two daughters are trained nurses living in New Haven, I believe, and the son, Rev. Sarkissian, being the same of which there was a notice recently in the Christian Nation that he had volunteered for service with the Canadian forces in France. During our first two years we lived in native houses, clinics and services being held in one of the rooms. In the meantime a cer-

tain Greek member, Mr. Peponiades, gave to the mission a large garden within the town of Nicosia, also £200, to build a chapel, which was built in 1907. About the same time Rev. Shaw gave \$1200 to build a dwelling house. which was built immediately after the chapel, at a cost somewhat exceeding the sum stated. This house we have had the pleasure of occupying since, excepting the time we were home in America and the first year after our return, which was spent in Larnaca, no teacher being found who would come to the rescue that year. I was impressed into service as a teacher as soon as we landed at Larnaca; also at the back of the compound we built a house from funds raised in our medical work. This house is occupied by Licentiate Mr. Dimitriades and family. This completes the list of property belonging to the mission in Nicosia. Mr. Peponiades, at his death, left to the mission property amounting to more than $\pounds 1200$, which was used to construct the fine large school building in Larnaca.

"As regards the personnel, there are four of us actually engaged in the work. I am kept fairly busy with my medical work as you may see by referring to the annual report. Mr. Dimitriades now gives his whole time to evangelistic work, preaching in Greek and Turkish on Sabbath and and in Greek at the clinic's hall on Tuesday and Friday, and 'family visitation,' visiting every family of the congregation at least once in two weeks. He also works among out-Occasiders as opportunity arises. sionally in my practice I find patients drawing near their end who seem desirous of knowing more about the future. To them I send Mr. Dimitriades to accomplish what he can before it is too late.

"As Bible woman we have Isabella, an Armenian widow, whose husband, after much suffering, died last year. She talks to the Turkish and Armenian women at our clinics and goes about to any houses that may be open to her to read and explain the gospel, and also we have as general assistant in the dispensary Lycurgus, a young man who is a living monument to the transforming power of the gospel. Living in a home of doubtful character, a Roman Catholic, given over to dissipation, expelled from our school, seen the inside of the prison, he is now one of our most faithful members, living a regular life.

"Up to the present we have not had a hospital as there is a government hospital, and I formerly spent a great deal of time going to the villages but now the government has appointed doctors to many of the villages and the people find that it is cheaper to bring their sick ones to town than to take a doctor from here.

"Also I find it very unsatisfactory to send patients to the government hospital as their treatment depends on those in charge and they are not always kindly disposed towards poor people, so that I have decided that all things considered it would be to the advantage of the mission and its work if we had a small hospital in connection with the mission. If all the reports I hear of gold flowing into America are true there should be some who of their superabundance could give enough to build a mission hospital as a means of spreading the gospel message. I must leave something to say next time so will close with the desire that we may have the continuance of your prayers in our work.

> "Sincerely yours, "C. McCarroll."

Tak Hing, China. Rev. J. K. Robb sends the news items that follow:

The enforced absence of Rev. A. I. Robb from the field has necessitated the closing of the Training School for the time being. The students are at present being employed as evangelists, with the out stations as centres. They have been sent out in the Scriptural fashion, two and two. They very much prefer this method, since it affords companionship and mutual support and assistance.

* * :

Our numbers are becoming very greatly diminished. In a house that, two years ago was inhabited by no less than twelve persons, three of whom were children, there is at present one lone occupant. He has no reason whatever for complaining of lack of room. He is more disposed to lament that there are not more people in the house.

* * * *

Meanwhile the amount of work to be done seems to be constantly on the increase. We are no longer pushing the work. It is doing the pushing, and the problem with us now is, how to keep it going in the right direction. It seems very probable that new ways and means will have to be devised to keep pace with the gait at which the work in general is moving.

Communions at some of our out-stations have been postponed, owing to the excessive rainfall. The probability now is, that they will have to be deferred until after the spring planting of rice. It is true here as it is in our country congregations at home, that regard must be paid to the times and seasons.

The Hong Kong papers report the situation between the U.S. and Germany as being very critical. China has also severed relations with Germany. The result is, that a large number of German citizens in China are finding it somewhat difficult to find a place for the soles of their feet to rest. The effects of the European war are not felt here as they are in the United States, and yet we are reminded at times that there is a war being waged, local conditions serving to keep us in remembrance. The Chinese seem to be as anxious to see

hostilities brought to a close as any people are.

* * * *

Speaking of the effects of the war, perhaps one of the most striking of them as we see them in China is, that mission work in various quarters have been seriously interfered with. Both English and German missions have suffered greatly, both in loss of workers, and in financial support. Previous to the opening of hostilities the Y. M. C. A. had a fine suite of rooms in Hong Kong, and did good work. Shortly after the war opened, the writer was in Hong Kong, and having some leisure, decided to go to the Y. M. C. A. reading room and while away the time. Much to his surprise. the rooms were deserted. Some inquiry as to the present location led to discovering the association in two very small rooms, hardly sufficient to hold the furniture. A second visit at a later time resulted in finding the rooms closed.

* * *

It is a comfort to know that in the midst of this turmoil and violence, there is One who sits on the floods, and is able to make the wrath of man to praise Him. An unbeliever surely ought to be a pessimist. If there were no over-ruling Providence, what could we expect? "The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice."

* * * *

Mrs. Kempf's news budget is unfailing in its regularity and very much appreciated. We are most grateful for her faithfulness and promptness as well as for the news. Mrs. Kempf writes:

"It does our hearts good to see the natives themselves preach the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ and to see them perform the different offices in the church.

"The services last Sabbath were most impressive. Five of the native brethren who were previously chosen by the native church as elders were ordained.

* * *

"One of them is a graduate of the Training Class and is now preaching the glad tidings at Ma Hui.

"One is a teacher in the girls' school who also took part time in the Training Class. One is the head teacher in the boys' school.

"Another is the old man from across the river whose name is Chan. His wife died a little over a year ago, of which you read in OLIVE TREES. He is most regular in his attendance and has to call a boat to cross the river every time he comes, but his seat is never vacant—rain or shine, heat or cold, he is most faithful.

"Rev. J. K. Robb preached on 1st Cor 2: 9, after which the native session, who are native preachers led by Mr. I. K. Robb, ordained the newly elected elders. One of the native preachers spoke to the new elders and another addressed the congregation.

"It makes all our hearts rejoice to witness such a service but we must remember they are all young Christians and still need guiding and your prayers.

"On account of shortage of workers some of the native Christians have been pushed forward but we must remember that it is the same here as at home, there are many earnest Christian workers who would not make good leaders. But the Lord is able to use them in His own way. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit they will grow in the Christian life while engaged in the Lord's work.

"God's ways are not our ways. The harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few."

* * * *

Mrs. W. M. Robb sends this interesting account of a visit to San Wan, a suburb of Tak Hing:

"A few days before Mrs. Wright left us it was my privilege to accompany her and the Bible woman to visit one of our members who lives at Sai Wan, some distance from here.

"When we were over half way to

her house, we met her going to market to buy provisions.

"Very courteously she tried to persuade us to go on, that it really wasn't necessary for her to buy on that day, but we finally told her to go on and do her buying and we would call on some one else for a while and would probably reach her place about the same time she did.

"The Bible woman, who, by the way, is the girl whom Dr. Robb ransomed from slavery, took us to the home of an old grandmother who is one of our members.

"Her house is old and suffered greatly from the flood two years ago. She is poor and hasn't the money to have it repaired. In fact, the brick from one side is practically all gone and now is partially enclosed with lattice work made of bamboo. It was cold that day, too, and she thinks it pretty hard to live in a house like that, as do many other Chinese, but they get plenty of fresh air so perhaps this kind of houses is better for them than those 'ceiled with cedar and painted with vermilion' would be.

"Our friend greeted us long before we reached the door and invited us to come in, all the time telling us that she had 'lost all her manners.' Being a woman, of course, she apologized for the looks of her house and said she hadn't much of anything.

"Our Bible woman then took the opportunity to say that we came into this world 'empty handed' and 'empty handed' must go out of the world so it didn't make much difference what we had if only we had the true riches.

"One never has to wait for an audience when going to a Chinese home. We were hardly seated when the room was full of people. There was one woman in the crowd who really seemed to want to know about the 'Jesus doctrine,' so began immediately to ask questions. All of them were ably answered. She was then invited to attend church. 'O,' she replied, 'f haven't time, besides if I did go, I wouldn't understand all that was said.'

"The Chinese are very fond of illustrations, so the Bible woman said 'When you dye a piece of cloth, perhaps after you dip it in the dye the first time, it is still almost white, but you keep on dipping until it is just the color you want, so it is with the hearing of the Gospel; at first, one does not understand all but gradually one comes to know the mystery of godliness.'

"She told, too, of how our God, the one living and true God, supplies all our needs. She says, 'You have an idol to bless your house, another to bless your family, one to bless your fields and many others besides. Do you think it strange that one God can supply all your needs? You know there is but one sun. It shines part of the time over in America, in England, in China and in all the other countries, giving light and warmth to all. Each country does not have a sun, just one for all, and it is sufficient."

"'O, yes,' she says, 'you know the Jesus doctrine makes a difference even in people's faces. She then referred to the one in whose house we were, how her face used to be very sad, how she always worried about how her needs were going to be supplied, but now her face is radiant with joy because she knows that the Heaveniy Father, who knows what things she has need of, is about to supply *every* need.

"After our evangelist had finished our earnest enquirer said, 'Yes, the Jesus doctrine is good.' 'Almost thou perusadest me to be a Christian,' flashed through my mind.

"We then left this home and went on to see the friend whom we had met on the way.

"She gave us a hearty welcome, served us tea and fruit and in every way made us feel that we were among real friends. "Our Bible woman embraced every opportunity which presented itself to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. There are a number of Chinese workers now, both men and women, who are very able to present the truth, and it rejoices our hearts to know that these who have been washed from the guilt of their sins have the burden of souls upon their hearts.

"This was the day before the Chinese hallowe'en (at least we likened it to that) so a great many of the people were gathering in their vegetables, believing, no doubt, in 'preparedness.' It is a custom, so they say, on a certain night of each year, to go to a neighbor's garden, pull up some vegetables, take them home, cook and eat them outside, thus insuring blessing and prosperity upon their own gardens during the coming year.

"After we returned home we felt somewhat weary in body but refreshed in spirit, when we remembered how ably the story of salvation had been told that day by one of the native people, and glad, too, because we knew that we had friends among these people of a different race. Our outward appearance is vastly different but our hearts are able to love God and also one another."

Canton, China. Dr. Wright and his family have come settled in their new home at Canton and Mrs. Wright sent us a fine newsy letter which she wrote on March 26th. Better still, Mrs. Wright has promised to do it again and often. This is the letter:

* * * *

"It is estimated that over a thousand people were in the audience at the Second Presbyterian Church of this city to hear Chung Wing Kwong give some of his experiences during the last five years. Mr. Ching is the Commissioner of Eduction who had to flee the country to escape the wrath of General Lung and his robber gang while they were terrorizing the people of Canton. He compared his own flight to the flight of the early Christians who were persecuted. He pointed out that it was through persecutions that Christianity had spread and seemed glad that he was counted worthy to suffer. The Chinese were very much interested in all he had to say. Some one suggested that his speech savored more of patriotism than of religion, but there seemed to be a good allowance of both.

"A selection from the 103d Psalm was sung at hospital chapel exercises this morning. There were some seventy patients in attendance—besides the nurses and internes. Dr. McBurney spent a day or two with us last week.

"Miss Adams is down this week. The annual Education Conference was held on Friday and Saturday. Some very interesting papers were read, followed by lively discussions. Our paper was on school agriculture by the Professor of Agriculture in Canton Christian College. He suggested how in the country, schools with grounds might grow many vegetables, thus providing wholesome variety for the table and also be a means of self-support to dependent pupils. A paper on school sanitation dealt with the question of screening against both flies and mosquitoes. Write over the portals of vour school kitchens: 'Flies kill people.'

"Rev. W. M. Robb took advantage of the spring vacation to visit his wife and children at Tak Hing. The report is that he is the most careful student in regard to tones that there is in attendance at the language school.

"Miss Brownlee spent a day with us while Miss Adams was here. She is supposed to take an examination soon on five hundred Chinese characters. There is no question about her passing with plenty of margin.

"Four operations today. Three days for operating each week; the other three days out-patient dispensary days, with emergency cases any time of day or night.

"Mrs. Hoffmann, who is in charge of the Cradle Roll, took the members of her class through the wards and private rooms of the hospital one morning lately. They sang for the patients and distributed flowers, much to the delight of the patients, to say nothing of the joy of the little tots themselves."

CROSS AND CROWN

- I said, "Let me walk in the fields." He said, "No, we walk in the town."
- I said, "There are no flowers there." He said, "No flowers, but a crown."
- I said, "But the skies are black;

There's nothing but noise and din." And he wept as he sent me back;

"There is more," he said, "there is sin."

- I said, "But the air is thick,
- And the fogs are veiling the sun." He answered, "Yet hearts are sick,
- And souls in the dark undone."
- I said, "I shall miss the light, And friends shall miss me, they say."
- He answered, "Chose tonight If I am to miss you or they."
- I pleaded for time to be given. He said, "Is it hard to decide?
- It will not seem hard in heaven To have followed the steps of your Guide."

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Edited by Mrs. J. S. Martin and Mrs. T. H. Acheson

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSI-BILITY.

By Mrs. R. J. McIsaac.

"Who can support or help support a missionary in China over and above what they are now doing?" As I read the above question in the March OLIVE TREES the thought came to me; why limit it to the suport of a missionary to China, why not include the other missions of the Church as well?

All who follow the progress of missions know that China, with its teeming millions, is a field already white to the harvest and that now is the opportune time to get laborers into the field for the evangelization of the district for which our Church is responsible. We have a great service to render to China but we owe this duty also to other peoples of the earth. We must keep in mind that at the close of this great World War the Turkish Government will be overthrown and that enlarged opportunities for carrying on work among the Moslems will open up in Syria. Dr. C. F. Herrick, who for half a century has been engaged in mission work in that land, says: "When the war ends in the overthrow of the Turkish Government, the Turkish people will know to whom to appeal for the help they so sorely need. That appeal will not be to those of their own faith who now so grossly misgovern them, and through whom they are now plunged into an abyss of suffering and loss. They will appeal to their old friends of the West, especially to Americans, whose philanthropic efforts in their behalf for many years have won their confidence. At the present moment millions of Moslems are extending towards us friendly hands, looking at us with appealing eyes, yearning for our help and sympathy with aching hearts." Sooner or later, then, we may expect this appeal to come to us and we must be ready to answer it when it comes.

The question facing us is: How can we meet these great responsibilities? Many of us no doubt think we are already contributing as much as we can for Mission work. Are we? Are we giving systematically, or practicing self-denial to any great extent, in order to send the Gospel to those sitting in darkness and the shadow of death? Some one has said we should give to Missions until we feel it, and then some more. For years we have been accustomed to contribute to the support of our Missions by taking a collection on a certain Sabbath for each of the Missions-perhaps the pastor announced the previous Sabbath that the quota was so and so per member. When the offering was taken, some were short of funds, and gave only part of their quota; others, either too poor or having no particular interest in mission work, gave nothing. Who made up that which was lacking? The contributions of generous people who gave more than their required quota and whose gift should have been devoted to enlarging the work went to pay these deficiencies. Some still follow the old method of giving but many have awakened to the fact that the method of giving systematically has its value and is the better way.

In order to give intelligently we must know the needs of our fields. As a rule we contribute most generously to objects we are most interested in. Fersonal acquaintance with missionaries and knowledge of conditions in their fields are important factors in stimulating interest in mission work. For this reason the support of a missionary by an individual group of individuals, church, or group of churches, is an ideal plan; and, if it it can be carried out, I am confident that such an enlarged zeal for the cause of missions will be manifest as has never been experienced in our church. I have been interested in missions from childhood. This interest was due in large measure, to the fact that I was a member of the Walton congregation, the congregation from which Rev. Henry Easson, one of our early missionaries to Syria, came. I was a very small child when Mr. Easson first sailed for the foreign field; but I recall how proud we were to have a foreign missionary go from our congregation, and the great interest the people had in that mission. His parents were members of the church and through them we heard from him and his work in that distant land. When he came home on furlough he visited us in our homes. gave an illustrated lecture in the church, and Mrs. Easson had the women make garments to take back with them on their return trip. All this interested us young folks and made a deeper and more lasting impression on us than the reading of an article from some magazine by some one whom we had never seen would have made. Ignorance as to the needs of our mission fields can no longer be given as an excuse for lack of interest in the extension of missionary work. Interesting letters are coming to us all the time from our representatives in the field. When the missionaries are home on furlough, instead of taking their much needed and wellearned rest, they spend a good part of their time traveling over the Church talking about the work in order to create a greater interest in the home land. We have Mission Study classes, missionary books and magazines all setting forth the conditions and needs of the people in our own and other lands. Opportunity for service awaits us on all sides. Are we making the most of it or are we shirking our responsibility?

In order to deepen the interest in missions and develop a spirit for genuine cheerful giving there must be a feeling of personal responsibility for the carrying on of the work of the evangelization of the world. That we are coming to realize this responsibility more year by year is evident from the fact that the Foreign Mission board is asking for twelve missionaries for China this fall and asking us if we can as individuals or churches support a missionary above what we are doing. The recommendation by the Executive Committee of the W. M. S., of Pittsburg Presbyterial that we designate our Thank-Offering for the permanent support of one or two women missionaries to be sent out to China this fall is timely and wise; and I trust will meet with favor in all our societies.

The women of this Presbyterial learned the value of personal responsibility years ago when they took on them the support of Dr. W. W. Carithers, of the Indian mission. I feel that in becoming responsible for the support of two missionaries we will not only increase our interest in that far-away mission but our Thank-Offering as well. Let us assume the responsibility and get ready for the next opportunity which is even now knocking at our door. Now that our country has been forced into this great maelstrom of war demands for larger service, greater activity and more self-denial will be made on us in the immediate future here at home. Opportunity embraced means greater responsibility.

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.

Soldiers of the Prince.

Some Things to Remember.

(Concluded).

Dear Boys and Girls:----

I hope you will all get some missionary stories and read. You should read of William Carey, Robert Morrison, David Livingstone, Adoniram Judson, John G. Faton and many others. These stories are wonderfully interesting. For instance, speaking of James Evans, missionary to the Indians of Canada, traveling by dogtrain, we read:

"They were fortunate if, when the day's journey was ended, they could find a place for a camp on the lee side of some dense forest trees, and where they could find dry wood in abundance. When such a place was found, they called a halt. The dogs were unharnessed and given their liberty. Axes were taken from the sled and dry trees were felled and cut into lengths of from twelve to fifteen feet. Then the camp was prepared. Using their snowshoes as shovels, the snow was cleared away for a space about ten feet square, the snow being piled on three sides. Then the logs were brought in and laid in a heap and in a few minutes there would be a blazing fire. Kettles were kept filled with snow till they were full of water. In the large one the meat was boiled. While the meat was being cooked, the dogs were fed. Each dog was given two whitefish. The frost was so severe that the fish were as solid as stones, and had to be thoroughly thawed before the fire. The dogs being fed, the missionary and his Indian associates prepared their own supper. They ate their meat and cakes and drank their tea. Sometimes the meat would freeze two or three times in the course of a meal. In that case it was plunged

into a boiling pot of water. For the missionary to sleep a buffalo robe was spread. The pillow was placed so the missionary's feet would point to the fire. As they wrapped him in his heavy blankets and robe they would warn him to keep quiet as possible. Otherwise the cold might reach him and he would freeze to death while Then the Indians wrapped asleep. themselves in a single blanket each and slept all night. Sometimes blizzards came up suddenly and swept the snow that had been shoveled around the camp in all directions. At such times the fire would be put out and the camp and all within its border covered with snow. The missionary and his friends would lie still and let the blizzard howl above them. They were safe and warm under their blankets and robes and slept in peace while the blizzard sang them a lullaby."

All these stories are interesting but more than that they show us what love will do. James Evans among the Indians, Williams with the cannibals, and others have proved that love is superior to arms as a conquering force. Today millions of men arc engaged in war. Many have died and many more will die. Thousands of others are terribly crippled and handicapped for life. The uppermost thought among many not only in America but in England, France and other countries is "What can be done to prevent such a war occurring again? How can we abolish war for the future?" These stories give us the cure. Take away hatred and greed, substitute instead love and unselfishness. Let every nation acknowledge the authority of a Higher Power, the Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Then they will learn to love Christ. others and the all-conquering power of love will make war impossible. Love will conquer cannibals and the wildest sayages and some day it will conquer the nations. They will acknowledge Christ as King. Then they will know war no more. To us.

who know the cure, is given the responsibility of proclaiming it. "And a little child shall lead them."

MARY A. MCWILLIAMS.

From Epoch Makers of Modern Missions.—McLean.

WHAT ALL CAN DO FOR MISSIONS.

Since my first connection with a mission the question has frequently been asked me "What can our W. M. S. do for the Mission?" It usually meant *do* something other than give money. It was not always possible to suggest work a society cared to undertake that would be useful to the Mission, or, that would be practical, owing to cost of sending.

But there is one thing that is useful, highly practical, and that is possible to be done by every woman, young or old, in any W. M. S. of the Covenanter Church, viz.: "That supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made," in behalf of the work and of workers, both native and foreign, in all of our mission fields. If we really want to do something for our missionaries will it not be well to do the one thing they urge us to do?

Let us take OLIVE TREES for 1917 and make note of all requests for prayer and of incidents recorded for which to give thanks. There will be a list entirely too long for any one to keep in mind without the aid of notes, but it will be easy to look them over during the "Quiet Hour" from day to day until we become familiar with them, and we will be more interested in the work when we pray intelligently. If all the women in the church pray daily and definitely, may we not expect definite results?

Another plan may be suggested. At the regular monthly meeting take a part of the time to study the work and needs of our own missions. If necessary, let each member bring her copy of OLIVE TREES (or copies of *Christian Nation* containing news from the fields) and spend some time together reading and talking over what our missionaries are doing so we may have up-to-date information. Surely it will be as interesting as studying work of other churches in ages gone (commendable as that maybe but which fails to elicit much study by many).

Or, if that takes too much time, have one person prepared to give the mission news of the month. Then. with the needs of the field fresh in mind, take them to the throne of grace, not one or two prayers of the kind, referred to by a speaker at our recent Sunday School Convention, in which a Sunday School Superintendent forgot nothing in his opening prayer but one little boy in China, nor like a minister, who, in his prayer went away by the Atlantic and returned by the Pacific, forgetting nothing, but let each one take part; a brief, definite petition for one object (a topic may be assigned each one). In this way some of the timid ones may be encourged to frame a petition who would not if they were expected to make a long praver.

Never has there been a time when prayer was more needed than at the present, and when praying for the work of which we read with so much interest, let us not forget those who perhaps need our prayers more, and for whose safety we would be greatly concerned were it not that we know "God is a refuge, a very present help in trouble." He is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." Let us ask of Him great things. Let us not fail our representatives on the fields, be the work in the midst of danger, hardship and discouragement, or be the work crowned with success.

Women of the Covenanter Church, let us awaken to our responsibility, our opportunity, our privilege.

IDA M. SCOTT.

THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

of the Pittsburgh Reformed Presbyterian Church desires to place on record a tribute to the memory of Mrs. J. M. Balph and thereby give expression to their love for this worthy servant of Jesus Christ and the high esteem in which she is held.

Mrs. Balph was called to her reward April 2, 1917. In her depart-ure the society has lost a valuable member, one who was faithful in attending its meetings and every ready to respond when asked to aid in carrying on the work of the organization. She conducted our Mission Study class of last year, using Dr. Balph's book, "Fifty Years of Mission Work in Syria." We shall ever hold dear the memory of those lessons. Many of the chapters were enriched by the narration of incidents of her own personal experience in Syria. She was, indeed, a charming instructor. We shall miss her and our hearts are filled with sorrow because we shall see her face on earth no more. But we are thankful that we had a few years of sweet comradeship with her, and are comforted by the thought that she has received the welcome, "well done," and has entered into the joy of her Lord.

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved husband and sister, to the relatives and wide circle of friends, and to the missionaries who labored with her in the Lord. While we together mourn her departure we are comforted by the thought that she has gone "to be with Christ, which is far better." In her death we should hear the admonitory voice of Christ saying to us, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." May we as members of the Missionary Society have a closer walk with God because we have been touched by this life so thoroughly consecrated to Him Whose she was and Whom she served.

> MRS. R. C. WYLIE, MRS. N. C. BLACKWOOD, MRS. R. M. J. DODDS.

LETTER FROM R. A. BLAIR.

The last days of March I had the pleasure of attending the Kansas Women's Presbyterial at Superior. The Kansas women are alive and interested in the wnole work of the Church. They see the present-day opportunity to bring the world to Christ. Eleven of our present Foreign Missionaries have had very close relationships with Kansas Presbytery and a fine delegation from Kansas will go to China this fall and others are in preparation.

I have presented the Call of China in Beulah, Superior, Greely, Evans, Denver, La Junta and Stafford congregations, and, at present, I am enjoying the hospitality of the good folks at Sterling. There are a fine lot of Covenanter students here, who are resolved that whatever places their lives may be lived the Lord will have their talents.

There is much interest among all our people in our Mission work and a good response in both money and missionaries. The war is cutting into our young men, and it is too soon yet to be able to say how many will go next fall, yet there is a good prospect of at least six new recruits.

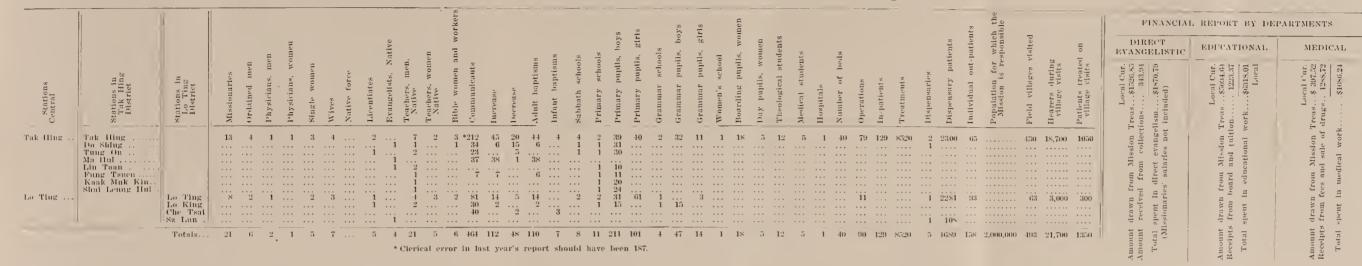
Our hope is that the war will soon be over and that the Church will put the same effort and sacrifice into the war of winning the world to Christ. Is it not time that the Church was mobilizing her forces for World Conquest. Should we as a Church not see that Every Member is doing the work he or she can best do to hasten Final Victory.

MOTTO IN THE LIVING ROOM— "The House Beautiful."

"Where there is Faith, there is Love; Where there is Love, there is Peace; Where there is Peace, there is God; Where there is God, there is no Need."

The world has many religions; it has but one gospel.—George Owen.

Reformed Presbyterian Mission in China. Statistical Report for 1916-1917



Reformed Presbyterian Mission in Cyprus. Statistical Report for 1916-1917

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FOREIGN MISSIONARIES OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN 1916

	Syria.

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MRS. J. S. STEWART	•••••
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MRS. SAMUEL EDGAR	on iurlougn
J. M. BALPH, M. D.,	on furlough
MISS MAGGIE B. EDGA	
MISS M. FLORENCE ME	EARNS, On furlough without salary

Mersine, Asia Minor.

REV. ROBT. E. WILLSON,	on fur ch
REV. ROBT. E. WILLSON, MRS. ROBT. E. WILLSON	on lur gn
REV. ANDREW J. MCFARLA	ND
MRS. ANDREW J. MCFARLA	ND
JOHN PEOPLES, M. D	
MRS. JOHN PEOPLES	
MR. J. FRENCH CARITHERS	
MISS EVADNA M. STERRET	
MISS F. ELMA FRENCH, on	

Larnaca, Cyprus.

REV	. WALTER	MCC	ARR	OLL.	 	 •	 • •
	WALTER						
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Nicosia, Cyprus.

CALVIN MCC.	arroll, N	1. D.	• •	• • •	
MRS. CALVIN	MCCARR	OLL.			

Tak Hing Chau, West River, South China.
Rev. A. I. Robb, D. D
Mrs. A. I. Robb
REV. J. K. ROBB,
MRS. J. K. ROBB on furlough
REV. JULIUS A. KEMPF
MRS. JULIUS A. KEMPF
REV. WILLIAM M. ROBB
MRS. WILLIAM M. ROBB
J. M. WRIGHT, M. D.
MRS. J. M. WRIGHT
MISS KATE MCBURNEY, M. D.,
MISS IDA M. SCOTT, M. D., JOn furlough
MISS ANNIE J. ROBINSON, without sal'ry
MISS MARY R. ADAMS MISS ROSE A. HUSTON, on furlough
MISS NOSE A. HUSION, on Iunough Miss Nelle A. Brownlee, Union Lan-
guage School, Canton S. China.
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REV. D. R. TAGGART) on furlough
MRS. D. R. TAGGART & without salary
MISS ELLA MARGARET STEWART
MISS JENNIE M. DEAN
Rev. Ernest C. MITCHELL
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